

S T A N D P O I N T

**by Prof. Nataliya Hristova Pavlova, D. Sc.
Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen
by competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor"
in the field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences,
professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of Teaching in ...
(Methodology of teaching mathematics in preschool age)
for the needs of Trakia University - Stara Zagora
Pedagogical Faculty,
announced in SG no. 88 of 20.10.2023**

Candidate: Ch. Assistant Professor Yordanka Dencheva Ilieva, Ph.D

By order 4378/06.12.2023 of the Rector of the Trakia University - Stara Zagora, I have been appointed as a member of the scientific jury to ensure a competition procedure for filling the academic position "associate professor" in Methodology of teaching mathematics in preschool age for the needs of the "Preschool and Primary School Pedagogy" department with a single candidate in the competition - Ch. Assistant Professor Yordanka Dencheva Ilieva, Ph.D.

1. Brief biographical details of the applicant.

Yordanka Dencheva Ilieva was born on January 5, 1971 in Shumen. In 1993, she received a Master's degree, majoring in "Preschool Pedagogy" at University of Shumen "Episkop Konstantin Preslavski". In 2007, she received her first professional qualification degree in DIKPO - Varna, and in 2018 she received a PhD-degree in professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of training in..., field of higher education 1. Pedagogical sciences, in the doctoral program "Methodology of training in mathematics and informatics" of the Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen. The topic of her dissertation is "A didactic-technological model for the acquisition of key competences by 5-7-year-old children in the process of comparing and measuring quantities".

Over the years, Ilieva has undergone a number of trainings, increasing her professional qualifications in various areas, such as pedagogy, psychology and information technology.

The work experience of Yordanka Ilieva is over 30 years, as she held the positions of teacher and senior teacher in kindergarten, senior expert in preschool education in REM. Since 2010, she has been a part-time assistant in "Methodology of the formation of elementary

mathematical ideas and concepts" at the University of Shumen, and from 2022 until now she is a "Chief assistant" at the Thrakia University in Stara Zagora.

2. General description of the presented materials and characteristics of the candidate's scientific research and scientific-applied activity.

I have received materials in electronic form, and they include all the necessary documents - references, diplomas, official documents, copies of the articles, etc.

The scientific papers submitted for the competition mainly concern the applied aspects in the special and private teaching methodology in mathematics and other areas in kindergarten. I have not detected the presence of plagiarism in the materials provided to me.

All works proposed for the competition are independent and in Bulgarian. The articles have been published in prestigious journals in Bulgaria and abroad, such as one article "The role of productive educational technologies for the formation of mathematical competence in 5-7-year-old children" was published in the "Pedagogics" journal, which was referenced in Web of Science.

The presented monograph "STEAM workshop Mathematical Kaleidoscope" in the kindergarten, out of print in 2023, is aimed at the implementation of author's ideas and synthesis of existing good practices, within the framework of an author's model. The volume of the monograph is 196 pages.

In the first chapter, "Theoretical foundations and analysis of the problem", a theoretical overview of the topic is made, and basic concepts and key methods, on which the author's model is based, are clarified. Emphasis is placed on the foundations of the STEAM approach, namely – constructivism, the competence approach and the integrative connections between the directions established in kindergarten. Main conclusions were obtained.

In the second chapter "Author's model STEAM workshop "Mathematical Kaleidoscope" in kindergarten" a model approved by the author is presented. Object, subject, goal and tasks of the research are formulated. For the purposes of the research, criteria and indicators have been formulated and appropriate methods have been selected.

In the third chapter "Application of the model STEAM studio "Mathematical Kaleidoscope" in practice" games and complete scenarios for the implementation of the model are presented. It is focused on building on the ideas laid down in the author's doctoral dissertation.

In the fourth chapter "Analysis and interpretation of statistical data on model testing" the results of the conducted pedagogical research are presented and conclusions are drawn.

3. Evaluation of the main scientific contributions of the candidate.

The main contributions of Ch. Assistant Professor Yordanka Dencheva Ilieva can be summarized as follows:

1. The possibilities of the integration of the individual educational directions in the light of the STEAM-approach have been investigated.
2. Author's games and scenarios were developed and a number of good practices were adapted for application in the author's model STEAM-workshop "Mathematical Kaleidoscope".
3. Adapted and examined from the author's point of view are the possibilities of application of classic didactic materials applicable in kindergarten.

4. Fulfillment of the minimum national requirements for occupying the academic position "associate professor" in Field of higher education 1. Pedagogical Sciences, Professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of training in...

For the competition under the given procedure, the candidate submitted 1 monograph; 1 book published on the basis of a defended dissertation for the ONS "doctor"; 12 articles in refereed and indexed publications (1 in WoS), reference for 11 citations, 2 of which are in journals indexed in WoS.

According to the submitted reference, the candidate meets the minimum required for holding the position of "associate professor". The candidate meets the required minimum, according to the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, as well as the internal criteria of the Trakia University, which gives me grounds to confirm that Ch. Assistant Professor Yordanka Dencheva Ilieva, Ph.D., meets the national requirements for holding the academic position "associate professor" in Field of higher education 1. Pedagogical Sciences, Professional field 1.3. Pedagogy of training in...

5. Critical remarks and recommendation.

The scientific production provided for participation in the competition does not contain significant weaknesses that would detract from its merits.

As a recommendation, I can point out the need for the author to publish her works in English as well, so that they can reach a wider audience. I would recommend the candidate to participate more actively in international projects of a scientific and educational nature.

6. Teaching activities.

During the years of teaching activity of Ch. Assistant Professor Yordanka Ilieva, Ph.D., led exercises, seminars and learning practices with students from the "Preschool Pedagogy", "Preschool and Primary School Pedagogy" majors, etc.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above, I believe that the only candidate for the announced competition for the academic position "associate professor" Ch. Assistant Professor Yordanka Dencheva Ilieva, is in charge of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for the implementation of the LDASRB. My evaluation for occupying the academic position "associate professor" announced by the competition from *Ch. Assistant Professor Yordanka Dencheva Ilieva, Ph.D.*, is **positive**. The achieved scientific and applied results give me reason to recommend to the respected Scientific Jury to give a positive assessment of the candidacy and to propose to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Pedagogy of the Thrakia University to choose the candidate Ch. Assistant professor Yordanka Dencheva Ilieva, Ph.D., as "associate professor" in Methodology of mathematics education in preschool age at Thrace University in the field of higher education: 1. Pedagogical sciences, professional direction 1.3. Pedagogy of training in.

6.01.2024

/ Prof. DSc. Nataliya Pavlova/